

Hospice in Assisted Living Sub-Committee
March 18, 2004 - Minutes

Attending: Gaylen Ewer – Chair, Joel Hoffman, Barbara Lund, Laurie Moore, Sheryl Stewart, Todd Cope, Marianne Hohrein, Eric Anderson, Lin Neff, Gina Coccimiglio, Tracy Stocking, Paul Fairholm, Chad McNiven, Peter Hebertson.

1. Gaylen introduced the meeting and reviewed the minutes from the February meeting.
2. Joel gave a summary of the events that have transpired since the last meeting. It was noticed that the State Fire Marshal's office has put the assisted living variance process into their rules – R710-3-3.6. If the rule changes to R432-270 are made that were discussed in our February meeting, then they would conflict with the Fire Marshal rules. Contact was made with Brent Halladay of the Fire Marshal's office – he is starting a group to discuss fire issues with the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services. He would like to discuss the hospice variance issue as part of this group, so further recommendations from him will need to wait until that group meets.
3. New rule drafts to R432-270 were passed out to show a change from the language agreed upon by the committee from the previous meeting. The rule drafts allow for no variance when the resident is stable, but still require a variance process when the resident becomes dependent. Paul commented that if we agree to this process, then it would be the same as it was about a year or two ago with the Bureau. AL facilities used to submit the variance when the person became dependent – but the person would die before the process could even be finished in most cases. He commented that this was a meaningless process since the resident would not have long to live by the time the variance was started. This would not be a change from the way the process used to be.
4. Questions were brought up by the group regarding the 24 hour/7 day requirement. How is it met? Is it happening on a consistent basis? Explanation was given as to how the process works now and some of the recent complaint situations were discussed. A background of the variance process was also discussed. The 24 hour care was originally agreed upon to satisfy the Fire Marshal's office and the need to evacuate a dependent person in the case of fire or emergency. It is an evacuation requirement, not a care-based requirement.
5. After all discussion, the group made the following recommendations:
 - A. That the rule drafts be tabled until the Fire Marshal group has a chance to meet; and
 - B. The committee needs representation at the Fire Marshal meetings to bring back information. UALA reps, Hospice reps, and Joel will attend the meetings.

Date of next meeting: Wait for information from the Fire Marshal group before scheduling.